



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

"All content and images on this site are for the exclusive use of the IFGA and IFGA Members and are protected under the copyright law. It is not for use without express written permission."

HOME	MEMBERSHIP	SHOWS	OFFICERS	CLUBS	INFORMATION	BREEDERS	CONTACT	MEMBERS SECTION
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------

So Where Do You Get Good Stock?

By Jim Gourlie

Psssst! Hey Buddy! Do you know where I can get some AAA #1 quality breeding stock? Well, the answer to that question be as close as your own club members. Yes, it is quite possible that some of your own fellow club members may have some quality breeding stock available to you. GAGC has a list of our members stock and the lines they are currently working with.

If you wish to look outside your club, then the IFGA Bulletin's Clearing House page will be of great help to you. The Clearing House is up dated every three months to stay current. It is a list of breeders who have fish available for the hobbyist. Each breeder gives the lines of fish they currently have, and their addresses and phone numbers (usually), as well. It is a great way to find the breeding stock you're looking for. Another way to find good breeding stock is to attend an IFGA sponsored show, You will find there are breeders who are showing fish, but, for whatever reason, are not listed in the Clearing House. Speak with them. Take a chance and bid on some of these breeder stock in the fish auction. If that specific breeder does not have fish in the auction, you may want to strike up a conversation with him or her and see if they would pan with some of their breeding stock.

One thing I DO NOT SUGGEST is buying the culls from a breeder's line. Why try to reinvent the wheel by buying inferior fish. Remember, these fish are just that, CULLS. One sure way to make more work is to buy culls. Buying these fish could send a breeding program back 12 to 18 months OF never even pan out.

I know of no reputable breeders who would sell you culls to start your breeding program. At best, culls are good as ornamental fish. Please don't try and go the "cheap" way. Buy good show quality stock. It will pay you big dividends in the future.

Whether you are buying from a club member, from a Clearing House listed breeder, or a breeder you met at a show, it is wise to ask a few questions before you buy. Consider a few of the following thoughts when purchasing show breeding stock:

1. How long has the breeder had the specific line you want to buy?
 2. Has the breeder ever consistently won with that strain or line?
 3. Has the breeder won in the last show year?
 4. Are you, in fact, buying from a winning line or a related line? Note: related lines can be helpful in maintaining your breeding program?
 5. How true does the line breed? Will you get a 80% to 90% true breeding rate or do they throw only 25% of the fish that you are specifically looking for.
 6. Does the breeder offer both virgin and hit females?
 7. What is the lineage history of the fish? Where did these fish originate from. If possible, see if the breeder will tell you what other lines were crossed into the fish to maintain the line.
 8. Do the fish generally show the same color in most water or light conditions? Example: Are they Green fish that turn deep blue in a different pH or look definitely green under "cool light", but under "soft light" look gray.
 9. Does the breeder have a "good" reputation? A little investigation can go a long way in buying quality stock.
 10. Does the breeder guarantee the fish will be disease free and delivered live when shipped to you?
- "Buyer Beware" may be a thing to remember. But the best way to ensure you purchase quality breeding stock is to do your homework and ask questions.

FURTHER TO THE BREEDER'S BOX

By Mike Khalid

Jim Gourlie's article above has raised some interesting questions and will be very helpful for the beginner as well as the novice.

When you buy fish by mail from any breeder, check the fish upon arrival. Make sure that you slowly get them used to your water conditions by adding small quantities of your water to the water the fish arrived in. I have added one tablespoon full every three hours until 100% has been added. Expect to get some variables in the off spring born in your tanks, as the conditions of your water, your feeding schedule and frequency of water change will have an affect on color variation and growth rate for which you cannot blame the breeder whose fish you purchased.

The other most important factor is that you must maintain two lines from every trio you purchase, after three generations outcross the cousins to produce show quality fish. (See item 4 above). One final note, and I'm speaking from personal experience, when you get shipped in fish and there is something wrong with the shipment, be sure to immediately call the shipper and if he is not available, be sure to leave your name, phone number, best time to call and a brief message as to your concern.

Back to the [Membership Library](#)



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

"All content and images on this site are for the exclusive use of the IFGA and IFGA Members and are protected under the copyright law. It is not for use without express written permission."

HOME	MEMBERSHIP	SHOWS	OFFICERS	CLUBS	INFORMATION	BREEDERS	CONTACT	MEMBERS SECTION
------	------------	-------	----------	-------	-------------	----------	---------	-----------------

© 2017 The International Fancy Guppy Association
All images present on this site have been donated to the IFGA for use and are protected under the copyright law.
They are not for use without express written permission.
Thank you Bryan Chin, Gene Baudier, Jay Crane, Luke Roebuck and Stan Shubel for their photo donations.

© Copyright to IFGA2017